

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070255

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, DIA, INFO USCINCEUR, DHANRAN,
JIDDA, LONDON, NICOSIA, TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI, CAIRO, USUN,
APRIL 14, FROM BEIRUT RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4391

DEPT PASS CAIRO, PASS REFTEL DIA AND CINCEUR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ENRG, ETRN, LE, US

SUBJECT: TAPLINE SATOTAGE

REF: BEIRUT 4383

SUMMARY: PIPELINE AND REFINERY OPERATIONS SHOULD RESUME
THIS EVENING. FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS PUBLICLY ACCUSING ISRAELIS
OF ATTACK BUT OFFICIAL LEBANESE SOURCES TELL US ATTACKERS WERE
SEABORNE FEDAYEEN FROM TYRE. GOL HAS PUBLICLY DESCRIBED
EXPLOSIONS AS SABOTAGE (OBVIOUSLY) AND WE UNDERSTAND GOVERNOR
OF SOUTH LEBANON WILL MAKE HIS VIEWS, WHICH POINT FINGER
AT FEDAYEEN, CLEAR TO PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. TAPLINE EXPECTS THAT ITS EXPORT OPERATIONS AND MEDRECO
REFINERY OPERATIONS WILL RESUME THIS EVENING, SATURDAY,
MEANING ATTACK CAUSED NO SIGNIFICANT INTERRUPTION OIL FLOW
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TO EUROPE OR LEBANON.

2. ARMY SOURCE TOLD DATT RAIDING PARTY CONSISTED OF 20-25 FEDAYEEN RPT FEDAYEEN WHO ARRIVED FROM TYRE BY BOAT ABOUT 0200 AND DEPARTED BY BOAT. ARMY AND GOVERNOR SOUTH LEBANON TELL US ATTACKERS PLANTED TOTAL OF 30 BOMBS, 17 IN TAPLINE TANK FARM PROPER, 13 AMONG PIPELINE OUTLET AND STORAGE TANKS USED BY MEDRECO CLOSE TO SEA. ARMY SAID ONLY TWO CHARGES EXPLODED, IT HAS DEFUSED REMAINDER.

3. TAPLINE SAYS TOTAL OF FOUR CHARGES EXPLODED, DESTROYING 100,000- BARREL TANK USED BY MEDRECO, SEVERELY DAMAGING ANOTHER WHICH HELD LITTLE OIL, PUNCHING MINOR HOLES IN TWO TANKS LOCATED TAPLINE TANK FARM, INCLUDING NEARLY- EMPTY 500,000- BARREL TANK. TAPLINE SAID RAIDERS SURPRISED AND OVERPOWERED THREE TAPLINE EMPLOYEES AND SOME CUSTOMS MEN, CARRIED OUT JOB AND ESCAPED WHILE GUARDS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES EITHER FIGHTING FIRES OR TAKING COVER. TAPLINE ACKNOWLEDGES GUARD FORCE NOT TOO EFFECTIVE. CONFIRMED NO CASUALTIES, NO RAIDERS CAPTURED.

4. FATAH AND OTHER FEDAYEEN ARE BUSY TELLING ALL PAPERS (AND GOL) THAT THEY NOT RPT NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACK AND THAT IN FACT IT WAS ISRAELI PROVOCATION DESIGNED INFLAME FEDAYEEN RELATIONS WITH GOL. THEY ARE DEVELOPING ALL SORTS OF TORTURED ARGUMENTS TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW. GOVERNOR OF SOUTH LEBANON IS MAKING HIS VIEWS (WHICH POINT FINGER AT FEDAYEEN) CLAR TO PRESS AND GOL NOT RPT NOT TAKEN IN BY DENIALS. PRESS LIKELY FEATURE FEDAYEEN LINE AND BE WARY OF EXPRESSING VIEW THAT THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE.

5. COMMENT: IT OUR PRELIMINARY OPINION THAT FEDAYEEN ATTACKERS WERE RUSHED INTO ACTION, IN DESIRE AVENGE ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT, BEFORE THEY WERE ADEQUATELY TRAINED IN USE OF EXPLOSIVESM BUFFUM UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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